

15. A recombinant *Streptococcus suis* mutant having a modified capsular gene cluster.
16. A recombinant microorganism comprising at least a part of a capsular gene cluster of *Streptococcus suis*, wherein said gene cluster comprises a deletion, insertion or (point)-mutation.
17. The recombinant microorganism of claim 16, wherein said microorganism comprises a lactic acid bacterium.
18. (Previously amended) A vaccine comprising the recombinant *Streptococcus suis* mutant of claim 15.
19. The vaccine of claim 18, wherein said vaccine comprises a *Streptococcus* mutant includes a *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression.
20. The vaccine of claim 19, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression is a recombinant *Streptococcus* mutant.
21. (Previously amended) The vaccine of claim 19, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression is capable of surviving in an immune-competent host.
22. The vaccine of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression is capable of surviving at least 4-5 days in said immune-competent host.
23. (Previously amended) The vaccine of claim 19, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

24. (Previously amended) The vaccine of claim 19, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

25. The vaccine of claim 24 wherein said non- *Streptococcus* protein has been derived from a pathogen.

31. A vaccine comprising the microorganism of claim 16.


32. The vaccine of claim 20, wherein said recombinant *Streptococcus* mutant has been produced by homologous recombination.

33. The vaccine of claim 21, wherein said mutant is capable of surviving at least at least 8-10 days in said host.

Please add the following new claims:

---

34. (New) A vaccine comprising the microorganism of claim 17.

 35. (New) The vaccine of claim 20, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression is capable of surviving in an immune-competent host.

36. (New) The vaccine of claim 35, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression survives at least 4-5 days in an immune-competent host.

37. (New) The vaccine of claim 20, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

38. (New) The vaccine of claim 22, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

39. (New) The vaccine of claim 35, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

40. (New) The vaccine of claim 36, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

41. (New) The vaccine of claim 20, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

42. (New) The vaccine of claim 41 wherein said non- *Streptococcus* protein has been derived from a pathogen.

43. (New) The vaccine of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

44. (New) The vaccine of claim 43, wherein said non- *Streptococcus* protein has been derived from a pathogen.

45. (New) The vaccine of claim 22, wherein said *Streptococcus* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

46. (New) The vaccine of claim 45 wherein said non- *Streptococcus* protein has been derived from a pathogen.

47. (New) The vaccine of claim 23, wherein said Streptococcus mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

48. (New) The vaccine of claim 47 wherein said non- *Streptococcus* protein has been derived from a pathogen.

49. (New) The vaccine of claim 37, wherein said Streptococcus mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

*Boone* 50. (New) The vaccine of claim 38, wherein said Streptococcus mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

51. (New) The vaccine of claim 39, wherein said Streptococcus mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *non-Streptococcus* protein.

---